



MEETING OF THE

WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

Main Office

818 West Seventh Street
12th Floor
Los Angeles, California
90017-3435

t (213) 236-1800

f (213) 236-1825

www.scag.ca.gov

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Ventura County: Linda Parks, Ventura County • Glen Becerra, Simi Valley • Carl Morehouse, San Buenaventura • Toni Young, Port Hueneme

Orange County Transportation Authority: Art Brown, Buena Park

Riverside County Transportation Commission: Robin Lowe, Hemet

Ventura County Transportation Commission: Keith Millhouse, Moorpark

Thursday, September 20, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

SCAG Offices

**818 West 7th Street, 12th Floor
Conference Room – Riverside B
Los Angeles, CA 90017
213.236.1800**

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Dan Griset at 213.236.1895 or griset@scag.ca.gov

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Agenda
WATER POLICY TASK FORCE
September 20, 2007
Conference Room - Riverside B

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public desiring to speak on an agenda item or another item, but within the purview of this Task Force, must notify staff to the Task Force prior to the meeting. At the discretion of the Chair public comments may be limited to three minutes.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action Minutes for the June 28, 2007 meeting will be available at the meeting and posted on the Task Force website (<http://scag.ca.gov/wptf>).

4.0 PRESENTATION ITEMS FOR THE TASK FORCE

4.1 Update on the Trash and Metals TMDLs for the Los Angeles River 3

Dr. L.B. Nye, Chief of the TMDLs and Standards on the staff of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Ken Farfsing, City Manager of the City of Signal Hill, will brief the Task Force on current issues related to the Trash and Metals TMDLs for the Los Angeles River.

4.2 Southern California's Water Supplies After Judge Wanger's Decision 4

On August 31, 2007, Federal Judge Oliver Wanger reached a decision in Fresno on an endangered species case that potentially could shut off the water southern California receives from the State Water Project. The ruling is still being clarified with additional hearings but early estimates of those imported water reductions range from 7% to 30%. Randall Neudeck, Program Manager, Bay Delta Issues with the Metropolitan Water District, will update the Task Force on current planning assumptions and strategies to counteract these future losses.

4.3 A Nexus between Land Use and Water Conservation: The Values of Stormwater Management in Southern California 6

Bo Cutter, Assistant Professor at UC Riverside and Member of the Task Force, will update the Task Force on completed studies that evaluate the benefits of retaining stormwater for reuse by maximizing infiltration opportunities, looking at both parcel and macro level water management planning.

4.4 Legislative Report from Sacramento 8

SCAG Staff and Metropolitan Water District staff will brief the Task Force on water-related legislation that was passed prior to the end of the state legislative session.

4.5 A Methodology for Selecting Projects With Better Comprehensive Outcomes 9

Tom West, Consulting Project Manager for the Greater Los Angeles Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, will provide an update on efforts to improve an integrated methodology for selecting projects that optimize a mix of water supply, water quality, environmental and community benefits.

4.6 Water Chapter in the Draft Regional Comprehensive Plan 10

Staff is seeking further Task Force comments on the proposed goals, outcomes and actions in current draft of the Water Chapter in the developing Regional Comprehensive Plan.

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

6.0 STAFF REPORT

7.0 TASK FORCE INFORMATION SHARING

8.0 COMMENT PERIOD

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The next Task Force meeting will be held on November 29, 2007 at the SCAG offices.

MEMO

DATE: September 20, 2007

TO: Water Policy Task Force

FROM: Daniel E. Griset, Program Manager, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Update on the Trash and Metals TMDLs for the Los Angeles River

BACKGROUND:

In recent years the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board has adopted pollution control plans (i.e., Total Maximum Daily Loads, or TMDLs) to remove water impairments in the Los Angeles River. Two of these actions have involved the reduction and removal of trash and of metals. Litigation has led to additional phases of this regulatory process, delaying final implementation actions.

Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles have entered into agreements with the Board to accept the original Trash TMDL plans first adopted by the Board for the Los Angeles River and for the Ballona Creek Watershed. Other public entities, however, joined in the Coalition for Practical Regulation to oppose a control plan that ultimately linked full compliance with a total elimination of trash from all storm drains. This issue has remained a point of policy contention throughout this regulatory process.

More recently, the Board adopted the Los Angeles River Metals Total Maximum Daily Load (LAR Metals TMDL) Basin Plan Amendment to address various water quality impairments from the Estuary to the Headwaters in the West San Fernando Valley. After several additional regulatory approvals, this TMDL became effective on January 11, 2006, but litigation resulted in the need for additional environmental considerations. These considerations were recently completed and the TMDL re-considered and again adopted by the Regional Board on September 6, 2007. This control measure will probably become effective next year with a compliance schedule based on the TMDL adopted in 2006.

L.B. Nye, Chief of TMDLs and Standards on the Regional Board staff, will update the Task Force on the Board's TMDL actions, as well as on future TMDL activities. Of particular interest will be a review of structural control measures that have been designated by the Board as measures, when installed, are considered to be full trash capture devices.

Ken Farfsing, City Manager of Signal Hill, will brief the Task Force on the views of the Coalition regarding these current actions, as well as progress among cities related to cooperative efforts such as monitoring for metal pollutants.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The consideration of this topic creates no fiscal impact on SCAG. Staff support for the Water Policy Task Force is funded through work elements in the OWP (Environmental Planning and the Regional Comprehensive Plan).

MEMO

DATE: September 20, 2007

TO: Water Policy Task Force

FROM: Daniel E. Griset, Program Manager, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Southern California's Water Supplies After Judge Wanger's Decision

BACKGROUND:

On August 31, 2007 Federal judge Oliver Wanger found that certain federal actions related to the protection of the Delta smelt, a fish on the endangered species list, were inadequate and required certain interim actions to prevent further declines in that fish population. Among these actions is the limitation of water diversion and pumping from the Delta into the aqueducts of the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project. This court action has the potential of reducing southern California's supply of State Water from the Bay Delta by up to 30%, beginning in 2008.

These limitations put 25 million Californians, as well as the entire economy of the state at special risk while the court awaits new biologic studies that can assure all of the parties at interest that ecosystem and water management practices provide appropriate protections for the endangered fish of the Bay Delta.

The Wanger decision stemmed from a lawsuit brought by the Natural Resources Defense Council against the federal Department of the Interior, challenging operations of the State Water Project and federal Central Valley Project in the Delta. The projects—which together manage more than 40 reservoirs that can store nearly 17 million acre-feet of water—rely on pumps and aqueducts to move Northern California water supplies through the Delta. The judge based his decision on recommendations filed by the state Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In remedies submitted to Wanger this summer, the respective state and federal resource agencies separately proposed a series of pumping curtailments in the winter and spring for Delta smelt, which spawn throughout the Delta in the winter and then migrate westward in the spring to Suisun Bay.

The actual water supply curtailments for Metropolitan will depend on fish, weather and flow conditions in the Delta and how curtailments are divided between the state and federal water projects. In addition, actual impacts also will be contingent upon Wanger's formal, signed ruling, a process that could take up to two months. This ruling lasts for a year until a new biological opinion is in place to guide the operation of the two water projects. If, however, the overall breakdown of the entire Bay Delta ecosystem continues to be ignored by state leaders the impact of the Wanger decision can have ongoing and dangerous meaning not only for the SCAG region but for every part of California.

Randall Neudeck, Program Manager, Bay-Delta Issues at Metropolitan Water District will discuss the implications of the Wanger decision as it relates to future water supply planning for southern California, including short-term and long-term actions needed to improve the ecosystem health of the Bay Delta.

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MEMO

DATE: September 20, 2007

TO: Water Policy Task Force

FROM: Daniel E. Griset, Program Manager, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: A Nexus between Land Use and Water Conservation: The Values of Stormwater Management in Southern California

BACKGROUND:

The uncertainty of supplemental water supplies reaching the SCAG region from the Colorado River Basin and from the State Water Project places a new importance on the creation of local supplies. Among these alternative supplies of water is the retention and reuse of stormwater as an additional buffer against what is being predicted by climatologists as permanent drought conditions.

Currently, substantial volumes of stormwater runoff are lost to the ocean as storm drains and channels move water away from communities. This runoff problem continues to be exacerbated by land development that converts natural land surfaces into the hard, impervious surfaces of rooftops, streets and parking lots. As a result, new development has placed increasingly heavier burdens on flood drainage systems constructed to prevent the loss of life and limit property damage. All of these efforts have accelerated in direct proportion to the loss of natural land surfaces.

This troubling combination of hard surfaces, water losses and flood control limitations has inspired new ways of thinking about the nexus of land use between water infiltration potentials. Retaining stormwater runoff has both water quality and water supply benefits: when water is retained on a parcel it eliminates the runoff that typically transports any accumulated pollutants into a storm drain and, eventually, into the ocean; in combination with the pollutant source control advantages of retention, preventing runoff creates an opportunity for stormwater infiltration that recharges the related groundwater aquifer.

In his role as a faculty member at UC Riverside's Department of Environmental Sciences, Bo Cutter has done an economic analysis of stormwater runoff retention and infiltration strategies as they might apply to parcel level incentives and actions. The focus of the study is to explore the potential for encouraging pervious land surfaces within the larger growth and development processes of the region.

One infiltration alternative for highly urbanized communities such as Los Angeles is parcel-level retention and infiltration devices (or Best Management Practices – BMPs). Cutter's study examines the placement and type of infiltration BMPs on typical parcels to determine whether parcel-level infiltration can yield positive net benefits and what size of the device would yield maximum net benefits.

This research uses local estimates of construction, maintenance costs and land costs. For benefits it uses local estimates of the water supply value of infiltration and the savings from avoided stormwater/flood control infrastructure. These estimates have determined the optimal capacity and mix of infiltration

BMPs for seven typical parcels in various non-residential land uses. The findings suggest that parcel size, water supply value and infiltration rates have the greatest effect on the level of net benefits for BMP installation. In general, the study has found positive net benefits from parcel-level infiltration when there are significant avoided stormwater infrastructure costs

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MEMO

DATE: September 20, 2007

TO: Water Policy Task Force

FROM: Daniel E. Griset, Program Manager, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Update on State Legislative Results and Activity

BACKGROUND:

Despite efforts to get major legislation enacted on water infrastructure during the regular session of the Legislature, these efforts failed. Other water-related legislation was enacted, however. Now, the Governor has called the Legislature back into a special session to consider actions on both healthcare and water infrastructure. There is a very narrow window of time (the window closes after September 28) in which any action can be taken on a statewide water bond measure and have it appear on the February 5 ballot.

SCAG staff, along with Albert Napoli, a Government Affairs specialist at Metropolitan Water District, will update the Task Force on some of the legislative highlights of the past session, as well as the prospects for action in the special session.

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MEMO

DATE: September 20, 2007

TO: Water Policy Task Force

FROM: Daniel E. Griset, Program Manager, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: A Methodology for Selecting Projects With Better Comprehensive Outcomes

BACKGROUND:

Over the past 2 years, dozens of cities and agencies in the Greater Los Angeles County area have participated in an effort to prepare an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The purpose of the IRWMP is to assist the region with establishing objectives and an implementation framework for managing the Region's water-related needs over the next 20 years. Of special concern is the emphasis on bringing into one planning framework the efforts related to water supply, water quality, and environmental and community planning.

The driver in this process has been the quest for state grant funding through recently adopted state water bonds: Proposition 50 passed in 2002 and Proposition 84 passed in 2006.

In order to optimize the competitive position of projects proposed for this kind of funding, the Los Angeles IRWMP consulting team has been developing a methodology to evaluate and prioritize the many projects proposed by the various stakeholders. Key criteria have been selected to guide the development of this prioritizing "tool":

- (1) The tool must recognize the need to quantify objectives within the goals of the IRWMP program themes.
- (2) It must recognize projects that are most ready to proceed, and thus be in the best position to compete for available grant funding.
- (3) It must reflect the unique priorities of each of the five different sub-regions within the Greater Los Angeles IRWMP area.

The presenter, Tom West, is a principal with RMC Water and Environment, a water-resource engineering and planning consulting firm (www.rmewater.com) and a member of the project's consulting team. For the project, Tom has served task manager for the prioritization framework development. Tom also serves as the Area Manager for the North Santa Monica Bay and South Bay sub-regions.

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REPORT

DATE: September 20, 2007

TO: Water Policy Task Force

FROM: Daniel E. Griset, Program Manager, 213.23601895, griset@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Water Chapter in the Draft Regional Comprehensive Plan

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Review and comment on the Goals, Outcomes and Actions proposed in the current draft Water Resources Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

BACKGROUND:

In the following pages is a current draft of the identified goals, outcomes and actions for the Water Resources Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan. Staff welcomes further feedback from the Task Force on these key elements of the Chapter.

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1. Goals:

Goal 1: *Develop sufficient water supplies through environmentally sustainable imports, local conservation and conjunctive use, reclamation and reuse to meet the water demands created by continuing regional growth.*

Goal 2: *Achieve water quality improvements through implementation of land use and transportation policies and programs that promote water stewardship and eliminate water impairments and waste in the region.*

Goal 3: *Foster comprehensive and collaborative watershed planning within the region that produces waterwise programs and projects with multiple benefits and ecosystem protections, integrating local government planning efforts with those of special districts, environmental advocates and other watershed stakeholders.*

2. Outcomes¹:

OUTCOME #1: Local land use policies and water practices are established to maximize efficient use of local water resources and reduce water demand in the SCAG region.

- Regional per capita water demand reduced by 25% by 2030 with waterwise land use and local management policies.

Data Considerations: Local water resources plans

OUTCOME #2: Land use and transportation policies are established to minimize pollution entering water bodies and increase on-site water management.

- Regional water impairments eliminated by 2030 with the use of stormwater and urban runoff controls and improved retention and infiltration systems.

Data Considerations: Urban Water Management Plans, Basin Plan (s) DWR, etc.

OUTCOME #3: Coordination and collaboration of local agencies, water districts and other watershed stakeholders to maximize all investments in water management for public benefit.

- All member agencies included as active participants in regional watershed planning and implementation efforts, including concurrent updating of basin plans within the region.

Data Considerations: City and County Water Conservation Programs/documentation, City and County water resources departments (Public Works), EPA, RWQCB, etc.

¹ All indicators will be based on current conditions. Current conditions will be based on 2005 data.

3. Action Plan:

a. Constrained Policies

WA1: Encourage increasing overall water supplies in the region to support the region's future growth

Secure sustainable and reliable water imports

SCAG shall encourage local government and water agencies to:

- WA1.1. Consider potential climate change hydrology and attendant impacts on available water supplies and reliability in the process of creating or modifying systems to manage water resources for both year-round use and ecosystem health.
- WA1.2. Include conjunctive use as a water management strategy when feasible.

Emphasize conservation and waterwise development

SCAG shall:

- WA1.3. Create a compendium of best management practices, case studies, and model ordinances that will give "waterwise" guidance for development entitlements and growth management policymaking.
- WA1.4. SCAG promotes water conservation awareness throughout the region, featuring the connections between water and other resources, including energy and the timing of water use.

SCAG shall encourage local government and resource agencies to:

- WA1.5. Require urban development and land uses to make greater use of existing and upgraded facilities prior to incurring new infrastructure costs.
- WA1.6. Reduce exterior uses of water in public areas by shifting to native landscape plantings (xeriscaping), using weather-based irrigation systems and public education and installing related water pricing incentives.
- WA1.7. Protect and preserve vital land resources such as wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, woodlands, riparian corridors, and production lands.

Reclaim and recycle treated wastewater for non-potable uses

SCAG shall:

- WA1.8. Encourage water reclamation throughout the region where it is cost-effective, feasible, and appropriate to reduce reliance on imported water.

SCAG shall encourage local governments and water agencies to:

- WA1.9. Amend building codes to require dual plumbing in new construction, and provide incentives for plumbing retrofits in existing development, to enable the safe and easy use of recycled water in toilets and landscaping.
- WA1.10. Amend ordinances as necessary to allow municipal and private outdoor use of recycled water for all parks, golf courses, and outdoor construction needs.
- WA1.11. Incentivize the use of recycled water through pricing structures that make it an attractive alternative to fresh water in non-potable situations.

WA1.12. Remove salts and other contamination in the region's major groundwater basins in order to increase conjunctive use of water resources and extend groundwater storage.

SCAG shall encourage State government and regional agencies to:

WA1.13. Develop fair and consistent safety guidelines for the use of reclaimed and recycled wastewater for non-potable uses and to facilitate more widespread acceptance and use.

Encourage funding and pricing mechanisms to achieve water supply goals

SCAG shall encourage State and local governments and resource agencies to:

WA1.14. Create stable sources of funding for water and environmental stewardship and related infrastructure sustainability.

WA1.15. Develop and implement tiered water pricing structures to discourage the waste of water and minimize polluting runoff.

WA1.16. Use both market and regulatory incentive mechanisms to encourage 'water wise' planning and development, including streamlining/prioritizing projects that minimize water demand and improve water use efficiencies.

WA2: Improve water quality through planning and development policies that encourage water stewardship

Encourage new partnerships

SCAG shall encourage State and local governments, resource and regulatory agencies to:

WA2.1. Develop comprehensive partnership approaches to remove and prevent water impairments, replacing the existing regulatory command and control approach that has created delays and distrust.

WA2.2. Create opportunities for pollution reduction marketing and other market-incentive water quality programs.

Low impact developments

SCAG shall encourage local governments and water agencies to:

WA2.3. Require Low Impact Development and natural spaces that reduce, treat, infiltrate and manage runoff flows caused by storms and impervious surfaces.

WA2.4. Prevent development in flood hazard areas that do not have appropriate protections, especially in alluvial fan areas of the region.

SCAG shall encourage transportation agencies to:

WA2.5. Design and operate regional transportation facilities so that stormwater runoff cannot contaminating the surrounding watershed ecosystem.

Green Infrastructure/ Green Building

SCAG shall encourage local government and resource agencies to:

WA2.6. Implement open space and green belts within new and infill developments for water cleaning and infiltration; street designs that retain and infiltrate

stormwater runoff; water retention features such as cisterns and other small systems that provide on-site water management.

WA2.7. Integrate water resources planning with existing greening and revitalization initiatives to maximize benefits and share costs.

SCAG shall encourage local government and resources agencies to:

WA2.8. Maintain and update Best Management Practices for water resource planning and implementation.

WA3: Actions supportive of the Integrated Water Planning Goal:

SCAG shall:

WA3.1. Encourage coordinated watershed management planning at the sub-regional level by (1) providing consistent regional data; (2) serving as a liaison between affected local, state, and federal watershed management agencies; and (3) ensuring that watershed planning is consistent with comprehensive regional planning objectives and challenges.

WA3.2. Facilitate information sharing between local water agencies and local jurisdictions throughout the region, in order to evaluate future water demands, prepare realistic Urban Water Management Plans, and support sustainable water and growth management policies.

WA3.6. Encourage the integration of water stewardship practices and unify investment incentives among all stakeholders, prioritizing resources for those investments that optimize returns and outcomes and best meet fiscal limitations, growth realities and sustainability objectives.

WA3.8. Provide, as appropriate, legislative support and advocacy for regional water conservation, supply, and water quality projects.

WA3.9. Develop a policy framework for integrating water resources planning and Blueprint 2% planning strategies in order to coordinate positive interactions between local land use policies and regional water supply and water quality actions over time.

SCAG shall encourage local government and water resources agencies to:

WA3.10. Coordinate with neighboring local governments and watershed stakeholders to identify potential collaborative mitigation strategies at the watershed level to properly manage cumulative impacts within the watershed.

WA3.5. Adopt MOUs and JPAs among local entities to establish participation in the leadership and governance of integrated watershed planning and implementation.

WA3.6. Increase participation in the implementation of integrated watershed management plans.

WA3. 7. Pursue water management practices that avoid energy waste and create energy savings or new supplies.